

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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ACDA-07 /084 W

-----091548Z 097040 /53

O R 091458Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5595
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1245

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SF US XA
SUBJ: FOLLOW UP ON NAMIBIA TALKS

REF: (A) LUSAKA 1229, (B) STATE 103413, (C) USUN 1375

SUMMARY: FIVE MEMBER LOCAL CONTACT GROUP MET AND BRIEFED MFA
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS GREENWOOD SILWIZYA MAY
9 ON NAMIBIA TALKS. HE WELCOMED CONTACT GROUP'S INTERVENTION
WITH SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT (SAG) AS TIMELY, ASKED ABOUT
NEXT STEPS, AND CAUTIONED THAT SAM NUJOMA WAS SKEPTICAL
ABOUT CONTACT GROUP'S WORK AND WOULD HAVE TO BE CONVINCED.
END SUMMARY.

IN THE ABSENCE OF FONMIN MWALE, (TRAVELING IN EAST AFRICA),
LOCAL CONTACT GROUP MET WITH MINISTER OF STATE SILWIZYA;
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BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER ACTED AS SPOKESMAN. FOLLOWING
THE PRESENTATION, SILWIZYA MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

---HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT COMMENT PUBLICLY ON THE STATUS
OF THE DISCUSSIONS SINCE IT WOULD NOT HAVE A WRITTEN TEXT
TO GO BY AND ANY COMMENT MIGHT BE MISLEADING.

---ANY SOLUTION TO NAMIBIA WHICH EXCLUDES SWAPO IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE GRZ. THEREFORE, SPEAKING FOR HIS GOVERNMENT, HE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE INTERVENTION MADE BY THE CONTACT GROUP ON BEHALF OF AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE NAMIBIA SOLUTION. THE CONTACT GROUP'S DISCUSSION WITH SAG HAD BEEN TIMELY. IN ATTAINING THE AGREEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA NOT TO SEEK PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL FOR THE TURNHALLE DRAFT CONSTITUTION, THE CONTACT GROUP HAS PREVENTED THE NAMIBIA SITUATION FROM GETTING WORSE. INSTEAD, THERE IS NOW THE PROSPECT AT LEAST THAT THE SITUATION MIGHT GET BETTER.

---IS IT CERTAIN THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS NOW PREPARED TO TAKE STEPS TO MOVE TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION? HOW SERIOUS ARE THEY? IN THE PAST THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE BEEN WILLING TO TALK AND TO MAKE PROMISES, BUT WHEN IT CAME TO ACTION THEY DID NOTHING. CONTACT GROUP POINTED OUT THAT THERE WOULD BE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SAG ON NEXT STEPS. SILWIZYW APPROVED, SAYING IT WAS BETTER FOR ALL CONCERNED IF PRESSURE ON THE SAG IS KEPT UP.

---IT WAS AN EXCELLENT IDEA TO KEEP SWAPO INFORMED AS THE NAMIBIAN CONSULTATIONS DEVELOP. IF THIS IS DONE, IT WILL HELP TO CALM SWAPO SUSPICIONS THAT THEY ARE BEING CUT OUT IN FAVOR OF THE CONTACT GROUP WORKING THROUGH THE FRONTLINE STATES. HE HAD SEEN SAM NUJOMA IN ANGOLA AND HAD FOUND THAT NUJOMA FAVORED THE CONTACT GROUP'S EFFORTS BUT WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THEY WOULD LEAD TO CONCRETE RESULTS. IF HE COULD BE REACHED FOR A BRIEFING, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO CALM HIS FEARS AND CONVINCE HIM THAT POSITIVE ACTION IS POSSIBLE.
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---IN CONCLUSION, GRZ GIVES ITS BLESSINGS TO THE WORK DONE BY THE CONTACT GROUP AND IS ENCOURAGED THAT PROPOSED TURNHALLE CONSTITUTION WILL NOT BE ACTED UPON. HOWEVER, IT IS TOO EARLY TO SEE IF THIS POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT WILL BE FOLLOWED UP WITH EVEN MORE CONCRETE ONES. GRZ FEARS THAT SOUTH AFRICA MAY HAVE SOME TRICKS UP ITS SLEEVE.

COMMENT: SILWIZYA APPEARED SINCERE IN WISHING THE CONTACT GROUP WELL. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE MOST ELLING POINT MADE WAS THAT THE PROPOSED TURNHALLE CONSTITUTION WOULD NOT GO TO PARLIAMENT FOR APPROVAL. HIS SKEPTICISM ABOUT SAG'S REAL INTENTIONS ARE UNDERSTANDABLE GIVEN ZAMBIA'S PAST EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH SOUTH AFRICA.
CLINGERMAN

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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